

Western Open Fiddle Championships



Celtic Contest Rules

1. The Celtic Contest consists of one round **and the contestant may play any acoustic instrument.**
2. Fiddle Committee officials will randomly select numbers for all contestants for order of appearance. Contestant order will be posted one half hour before the division begins and the contestant must be ready to play when called. If a contestant is not ready to play when called, he/she will be dropped to the end of this division and incur a 10 point penalty.
3. Contestants will play two distinct tunes, which vary in tempo, and can be chosen from these different types: jig, step dance, slide, march, reel, hornpipe, polka, and air. Both tunes will be judged. **Total playing time is four minutes fifteen seconds. There is no grace period. Timing will start when the contestant or any accompanist plays any note on stage.** Two points will be deducted for every ten seconds or portion thereof over four minutes fifteen seconds.
4. **In the event of a tie, the high scores for the tied contestants will be compared and the contestant with the higher score will be deemed to have won the tie. If the scores are still tied, the contestants will be deemed to have tied for the placement and will split the prize money.**
5. Contestants may play without accompaniment or with a maximum of three accompanists, no more than two of which may be standard guitars. **Having more than two standard guitars as accompaniment will incur a 5 point penalty.** If an accompanist is not listed on the tune sheet, his/her time on stage will not be counted toward the Accompanist award.
6. Contact microphones and amplified instruments are not permitted on stage.
7. No trick or fancy fiddling is allowed during regular contest appearances. There may be no cross-tuned instruments on stage.
8. If a string breaks **or there is other equipment malfunction, the contestant may choose to stop or to continue and complete the round. If the contestant chooses to stop playing, he/she will move to the end of the Order of Play for that round and play a complete round, regardless of whether or not any tunes were completed before the problem occurred.**
9. A contestant must play without assistance other than accompaniment. No sheet music may be displayed while competing.
10. Any contestant winning three consecutive years in the Celtic division may not compete in the Celtic Contest the next year.
11. Judging will be based on the following, for a total of 100 points possible for each tune:

Playing Technique including quality of tone, intonation, bowing, rhythm and tempo	25 points
Choice of Tunes and Level of Difficulty	25 points
Interpretation and use of bowing and ornamentation to convey the character of the tunes	25 points
Overall performance and stage presence	25 points
12. Points will be deducted or disqualification may occur for violation of the Contest rules.
13. Any contestant appearing intoxicated on stage may be disqualified from competition.
14. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Contest Chairman and be signed by not less than three contestants involved within three hours of the incident being protested. All decisions of the Contest Chairman are final.



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